



Minister for Consumer Affairs

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Mr Graeme Charles
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29 NOV 1999

Dear Mr Charles

I refer to your letter dated 2 November 1999 to the Attorney-General, the Hon. Robert Hulls, MP. Your letter has been forwarded to me as the Minister responsible for the administration of the *Co-operatives Act* 1996.

I have noted the information you provided about the Co-operative Federation of Victoria and the services that it offers members, and acknowledge the economic and community contribution that can be made by the co-operatives sector generally.

In relation to your application for funding, I am advised that the Office of Fair Trading and Business Affairs is presently considering the matter and will be in contact with the Federation shortly.

Thank you for informing me of the Federation's role in the co-operatives sector and I look forward to a continuing partnership between the government and the Federation with a view to providing information and support to co-operatives to assist them to meet the requirements of the legislative framework.

Yours sincerely

MARSHA THOMSON MP
Minister for Consumer Affairs